



April 5, 2022

NYS Climate Action Council
NYSERDA
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Re: Climate Action Council Draft Scoping Plan

Dear Members of the Climate Action Council:

The Association for a Better Long Island (“ABLI”) and Long Island Builders Institute (“LIBI”), the leading economic development advocacy organizations in the region, write to convey our serious concern regarding the Climate Action Council (“CAC”) Draft Scoping Plan.

ABLI and LIBI commends New York State’s (“NYS”) effort to achieve a carbon-free grid by 2040 and its shift to renewable energy. We recognize that the CAC scoping plan will develop a roadmap for the state to comply with the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. Within that context, however, it is imperative that the cost to Long Islanders and the plan’s impact on our economy be given strong consideration, particularly as it relates to the elimination of natural gas, when developing a plan to meet this directive.

Long Islanders continue to suffer from supporting costly energy initiatives. For example, LIPA ratepayers have been paying down the \$6 billion Shoreham atomic energy plant for decades and it remains one of the key reasons the cost of power on the Island is among the highest in the nation. We cannot endure another substantial cost burden if we expect our region to remain economically competitive with other regions of the country.

The CAC Draft Scoping Plan proposes a shift from natural gas to electricity. This is particularly concerning as, historically, the cost of natural gas is less than the cost of electricity. Additionally, major investments in infrastructure to achieve this transition, as it relates to the region’s electric grid as well as individual homeowners/builders, will also increase costs for Long Islanders. This shift is also concerning to our region’s industrial sector as numerous Long Island manufacturers rely on natural gas to power their facilities and machines. We are advised that companies will look to relocate out of state if they no longer can access natural gas.

Therefore, on behalf of the Association for a Better Long Island and Long Island Builders Institute, we respectfully request the CAC give strong consideration to the cost to Long Islanders and the plan's impact on our economy, particularly as it relates to the elimination of natural gas, when developing a plan to comply with the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Sincerely,



Kyle Strober, Executive Director
Association for a Better Long Island



Mitch Pally, CEO
Long Island Builders Institute